

Job, when he was in his misery once said, “My days have passed, my plans are shattered, including the deepest desires of my heart.” Job 17:11 That can be devastating when it happens to you. But today we want to learn to rejoice in the

### **Plans Ruined by the Resurrection.**

-I- Let’s begin by thinking about how **Jesus’ Resurrection Ruined Satan’s Plans.** It is easy to see the good when some evil plans for our harm are ruined.

Satan was created as a holy angel named Lucifer, but he made his own plans instead of submitting to God’s will and plan. We read about his plans in Isaiah 14:13-14 “For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’” Lucifer was seeking glory and honour for himself. He wanted to exalt himself “above the stars of God.” In other words he wanted to be the ruler over all the angels. He also wanted to “sit on the mount of the congregation.” In other words he wanted to rule over all people on earth. He wanted to be like the Most High—like God Himself.

He began carrying out his plans. He managed to take a third of the angels with him in his rebellion. They are all the demons who do his bidding. He managed to tempt Eve into listening to him rather than God and disobey God’s one command. Today he does rule over the majority of people in the world.

Thankfully Jesus’ Resurrection ruined Satan’s Plans. We read in Revelation 12:7-9, which is connected with Jesus’ resurrection. “And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Jesus ruined those plans. Through His death and resurrection He conquered Satan and cast him out of heaven. Satan has come down to the earth where he still rules over the hearts of men. However, Christ has freed us from Satan’s rule and now rules over the hearts and lives of all who trust in Him. Satan now is bound in chains reserved for the everlasting fire of hell. We can certainly rejoice that Satan’s plans were ruined. We have been freed from His tyranny and given the promise of Eternal Life.

-II- By ruining Satan’s plans, Jesus also **Ruined Eve’s Plans.**

Eve had listened to Satan’s deception and made her own plans. “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” Genesis 3:6 Eve believed Satan that God is not your friend. He is lying to you and keeping things from you. Just like Satan, Eve made plans to seek her own greatness and wanted to become like God.

Don’t we all make those same plans for our life, wanting to become like God? You might be thinking, “I’ve never had any ambitions of becoming like God.” You maybe haven’t had the conscious desire and plan to become like God, but whenever you disregard God’s will and command and do what you want to do, aren’t you setting yourself above God and essentially saying, I know better than you what is good for my life. Our human nature wants to be the god of our own life and make our own plans rather than to submit to God’s plans.

Those plans had devastating consequences. They separated us from our loving Father and brought sin, sickness, pain, suffering and death and destruction upon us all. Thankfully Jesus' resurrection has ruined the plans of Eve and all of our sinful, rebellious plans. God did not let us have what we wanted—a life without Him where we can be the captain of our own destiny. Jesus' death and resurrection has reversed the affects of Eve's plan. Jesus' death and resurrection "has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." 2 Timothy 1:10. Jesus' death and resurrection has proven to us beyond any shadow of doubt that God is our loving Father who always does what is best for us. His plans are always good. We can certainly rejoice that Jesus' resurrection has ruined all of our sinful plans and rescued us from their consequences. Even though, like Satan, we tried to usurp God's throne in our hearts, God has restored our relationship with Him and given us life.

Now because Jesus' resurrection thwarted our sinful plans and brought us out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of His love, we now are able to make good plans for our lives. Yet even those plans are sometimes **Ruined by the Resurrection.**

-III- We can see that when we consider **The Women's Plans** on the day of Jesus' Resurrection.

Their plans were not sinful or rebellious. They were motivated by their love for Jesus. We could even say that they were noble plans. They were just misguided because of their lack of understanding due to their failure to listen to Jesus' word. They made plans to anoint Jesus' body in the grave. We read in Mark 16:1-7 "Now when the Sabbath was past," that was Saturday evening, "Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. 2 Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. 3 And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" 4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. 5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. 7 But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

Those women were carrying out their plan to give Jesus a proper burial. They bought the spices and got everything ready Saturday evening after the Sabbath was over. They got up early in the morning, but when they got to the tomb their plans were ruined. Not because they couldn't roll away the stone, as they feared, but they couldn't anoint Jesus' body because there was no body. Instead they saw an angel who said, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here." "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" Jesus' resurrection ruined their plans because God had something far greater planned for them.

Thankfully that is true with many of our plans also. We make many plans that are not sinful in themselves. Many of them may be plans that are motivated by our love for others, or even our love for God. However, sometimes those plans are misguided by our lack of understanding. Our risen Saviour now rules all things from His throne in heaven. We can and should rejoice when our plans don't work out, because, as we sang before the sermon, we know that "*The Will of God is Always Best.*" Even when that may involve some disappointment or even some suffering. Because Jesus already made the greatest sacrifice for us, we know that He loves us dearly and always does what is best for us. We can trust His plan and His will for us completely.

-IV- There is one more set of plans that we rejoice in their being ruined by Christ's Resurrection.

**That was the **The Ruined Plans of the Jewish Leaders.****

The Priests and Pharisees devised a plan to prevent the disciples from stealing the body of Jesus and claiming that He rose from the dead. They convinced Pilate to seal the tomb and place armed guards in front of the tomb. But Jesus' resurrection ruined those plans. Those soldiers were not able to prevent Jesus' resurrection. They shook for fear and became like dead men when the angel came and rolled back the stone from the door. The Jews paid the soldiers to spread the lie that Jesus' disciples stole the body of Jesus while they were sleeping. But their plan to place the guard there in the first place made that extremely unlikely. Their plan to prevent a hoax, actually played into God's plan to prove that Jesus' resurrection was not a hoax.

Those Jews try to stop the Apostles from spreading the Gospel of Jesus' Resurrection. As we read in Acts, they arrested the Apostles, they threatened them and persecuted the Christians, but they could not stop the spread of the gospel. Jesus' plan for them to preach the gospel to every creature, has been carried out. Those Apostles were so filled with the joy of Christ's resurrection that they couldn't be stopped.

The same is true today. There are many in the world who are fighting against God and are trying to stop the spread of the gospel. But Jesus' resurrection ruins their plans. Jesus continues to build His Church and the gates of hell can't stop Him. So let's not hide behind locked doors, like the disciples did at first. Let us be like the Apostles after Pentecost who could not be silenced. Let us spread the gospel here in the Okanagan. We need to step up our outreach efforts as a congregation and our personal witnessing. And let's support the spread of the Gospel around the world with our prayers and offerings.

We can also learn an important lesson from the account of the women, that resurrection morning. When our plans align with His plans, there is no earthly obstacle that can thwart it. As those women went out to the tomb that Sunday morning, they envisioned that the heavy stone might prevent them from carrying out their plan, but God removed that obstacle. They didn't even know that the Jews placed soldiers to guard the tomb. That could have been another obstacle to their plan. The soldiers may well have refused the women entrance into the tomb. God also removed that obstacle.

What would have happened if the women were making their plans but then thought, "Wait a minute! We can't roll the stone away from the tomb, so there is no point in us going out there. They would have missed seeing the angels and being the first to hear the joyful news of Jesus' resurrection and seeing Jesus alive with their own eyes.

Do we sometimes miss out on God's blessings and working out of His plans for us because we focus on the earthly obstacles and give up? Do we give up on some godly plan because we think we just can't do it? Remember, with God all things are possible. Jesus' resurrection proves it. He already accomplished the greatest impossibility, that is saving us from our sins and giving us eternal life. Jesus built a world wide Christian Church, starting with just twelve mostly uneducated men against all opposition. He can certainly overcome any obstacles that we may face. Let us not be discouraged but trust Him and be ready to carry out His plan.

Amen.